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Thank you for your kind introduction. It's a pleasure to be here to discuss the Department of Energy's effort to promote wind power and help our rural communities explore this Crop for the 21st Century.

The Department of Energy launched the Wind Powering America Initiative about 2 years ago to help move wind technology further into the generation portfolio. A challenge to the country was also issued -- produce 5% of our electricity from wind by 2020, 5% of Federal electricity by 2010, and triple the number of states that have significant wind capacity. Ambitious goals for sure.

A lot of brainpower from across the country helped develop the initiative, including the power generation and supply industry, regulators, equipment manufacturers, elected officials, ratepayers, federal agencies, ranchers and farmers, tribal officials.

The principles to the team assembled to implement the Initiative were simple....

- leverage our limited resources
- be creative and innovative
- replicate results
- help people help themselves

Our first real effort was in North Dakota, also known as the Saudi Arabia of wind. I want to share the story of ND as I think it illustrates what WPA is all about and where I believe it has and will make a difference for our country.

North Dakotans, like most of us are good people and smart people. In November of 1999, they knew a few things for sure:

- how to make a living off of their land and do so responsibly;
- their farming community was in crisis;
- they needed to preserve and offer new economic options for future generations of North Dakotans;
- that the wind blows strong across their state...

With all this in mind, the leadership of the State asked DOE for assistance in raising public awareness, formulating a strategy and implementing an action plan to develop wind. Specifically they wanted to know:

- what exactly and where exactly was the wind resource in the State?
- what would the benefits be of developing or harvesting these wind resources?
- what did they have to do to get there?

We accepted the challenge and WPA came to life. We delivered an entirely new set of products and services, including general and technical information on wind energy and technology, the first state-specific wind resource map, and a technical analysis of the transmission system in the Dakotas.

We learned a lot from the experience, especially about outreach, which we've applied in subsequent efforts in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Idaho, Montana, Washington, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico. We have seen that tools and information alone are necessary but not sufficient to ensure success, as we defined above in our goals. It takes:

- well characterized wind resources...so we helped measure wind resources in 5 states and will do so with our partners in 6 more, and which we heard the wind program will help expand by developing the next generation turbine and small wind systems;
- it takes access to the transmission grid to get the power to the market...so we helped analyze transmission capacity in the Dakotas, along with Ed Weber of WAPA, and will do so in the West -- we just heard Bob Dixon commit the Office of Power Technologies play whatever role it can to get us to a better T&D system;
- it takes interested developers...so we brought big and small developers, from FPL Energy to Atlantic Renewable Energy Company to Chermac Corp. to the state workshops and will continue to do;
- it takes committed citizens...so we worked with folks like Jay Haley of ND, and Greg Adams of Ok, and citizen groups, like Community Energy of Pennsylvania and the Law and Water Fund of the Rockies in Denver, and Windustry in Minnesota, to bring them together to form a home-grown group of experts, all committed to a stronger community, a stronger economy, and a future full of options for their kids;
- it takes political support at the state and local levels...so we've worked with folks like State Senators Tom Sloan of Kansas and Larry Priester of Nebraska and Kevin Easley of Oklahoma to assist them as they craft legislation that supports wind development;

–it takes spreading the word that folks have built wind systems or bought wind power and are still living a good life, making money, raising their kids, running for office...so we've asked folks to share their stories of success, like farmer Charles Goodman and Waverly Electric manager Glenn Cannon of Iowa, developer Dale Osborne of Colorado, and County Commissioner Jim Nichols of Minnesota.

You might say that's all fine, but how many megawatts did WPA really put in the ground in ND? How about SD? Kansas? Nebraska? Oklahoma? The answer is... none.

This is not a deployment initiative, and we don't finance, site, install, run or maintain wind turbines. What we do is give people options...we present them a vision of what their future could be, give them the tools to begin the trip, and guidance and support on their journey. We don't tell them what to do or what is best for them – and the success is theirs alone.

In ND, as well as the other states I mentioned, they have already succeeded in substantial ways...

- developers are actively examining state resources and signing land-leases;
- bills that level the playing field for wind development have passed the legislature;
- electric coops, municipally-owned power, and investor-owned utilities have wind projects in the plans;

We said when we launched WPA that we would undertake these activities in some form for 5 years, whether its called WPA or something else or is rolled into a bigger effort or scaled back for that matter. What's important are the support functions, not the framework.

So at AWEA's Windpower 2004, someone will stand here before you and say this initiative delivered on the investment, and it delivered more than just megawatts in the ground...it delivered a positive vision and economic options to towns across the country and the families that live in them.